

# MANATABA MESSENGER

A Publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes

Volume III Issue I

February, 2005

## "Mega Throw" Celebrates Music





(Top) Attendance was strong for the Mega Throw. (Above) Jackie Armenta wears a traditional Mohave dress. (Right) Dozens participated in the signing and dancing. Photos by Melissa Drennan



The Ase S'Maav group held its first "Mega Throw" on January 22nd at the CRIT Johnson O'Malley/Career Development Building. The group is comprised of Mohave youth who have dedicated themselves to learning traditional bird songs and dances.

Bird songs are songs sung socially by Mohaves, and most importantly, sung during funeral rites. The "Mega Throw," named for the use of the traditional Mohave gourd, was a celebration of one year of learning and practice by the Ase S'maav group. Ase S'maav was joined by several other singers from "Bird Country."

## CRIT to see benefits from new Wal-Mart

Tribal members to enjoy new jobs, sales tax revenues from retail project

The Colorado River Indian Tribes and Wal-Mart Stores are in the final stages of negotiating a deal to bring the retailer to tribal land, just across from the Safeway Plaza.

As proposed, the new store will be approximately 100,000 square feet and include groceries as well as general merchandise. The store is expected to open in 2006.

In addition to creating more shopping choices for area residents and tribal members the

"This deal, if culminated, will conclude a pretty exceptional period for our Tribal Council."

— Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. economic impact for the tribe will be substantial.

The new store will create 200 jobs and up to \$400,000 per year in sales tax revenue for CRIT. The additional revenue will be used to fund and enhance tribal health care, elder services, public

safety and other services provided by the tribe.

"This deal, if culminated, will conclude a pretty exceptional period for our Tribal Council. We have been very aggressive pursuing the restoration of our La Paz Lands in Congress. We have increased communications with all members via the *Manataba Messenger*.

"We are securing the long-term financial health of our people with improvements at the

Please see WAL-MART, Page 12

## In This Issue...

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## Discussions continue on Blythe casino

Tribal Council Members meet with Blythe leaders; site selection on tap

Talks and negotiations continue between the City of Blythe, California and CRIT on construction of a proposed new gaming facility in or near the community.

Most recently, the CRIT Tribal Council participated in a joint meeting with the Blythe City Council on January 18th.

During that meeting, the results of an economic impact study conducted by the firm Ernst & Young was presented to CRIT and Blythe

officials. The study found that the proposed new gaming facility in the community would generate tens of millions of dollars in economic impact, as well as create hundreds of new jobs.

For specifics on the economic impact, see the related article on Page 9 of this issue.

Additionally, CRIT and the City of Blythe have also discussed possible locations for the proposed facility.

One proposed location is within the City of Blythe, at the intersection of Intake Boulevard and Interstate 10.

Please see BLYTHE, Page 12

## **News, information from your Tribal Government**

Chairman Daniel Eddy Jr.
Vice Chairman Russell Welsh
Tribal Council: Sylvia "Cindy" Homer (Secretary),
Eldred Enas (Treasurer), Dennis Patch,
Ray Aspa, Sr., Herman "TJ" Laffoon,
Valerie Welsh-Tahbo, Fernando "Bo" Flores

## New County Supervisor is a breath of fresh air

As has been noted on these pages, La Paz County Supervisor Gene Fisher has always been a friend to our people.

He farms our land. He often supports many of our issues. We applaud his re-election in November.

But we have often been disappointed by our relationships with others at the county.

That's why we welcome the election of new Supervisor Mary Scott.

She has already shown her intention to have a mutually respectful relationship by visiting with us at tribal headquarters in December.

We may not always agree on issues but at least we know her door is open to us as ours is to her.

In her own right, Supervisor Scott is a breath of fresh air. When compared to her predecessor she is even more so.

## Blythe/CRIT casino proposal continues to show promise

There's still a long way to go before a proposed new gaming facility in the community of Blythe, California becomes a reality.

However, as CRIT does its due diligence in working with Blythe officials and researching the feasibility of such a facility, the results look promising.

According to a study by the national accounting firm of Ernst & Young, a new gaming facility could result in tens of millions of dollars in new revenue for CRIT, as well as the creation of hundreds of new jobs.

There would be significant benefits for Blythe's economy, too.

CRIT has already seen just how beneficial gaming can be to our people, through the success of the BlueWater Resort & Casino here in Parker.

The Tribal Council is proceeding very cautiously on this front.

Studies like the Ernst & Young report are just one way that CRIT can be sure it is making wise decisions in moving forward. CRIT officials also will continue to meet with officials from Blythe to make sure every potential issue is resolved.

Fact-finding missions like those conducted last month by Council Members Homer and Laffoon and Vice Chairman Welsh are important.

So, to, was the joint meeting with Blythe's City Council, attended by Council Members Dennis Patch and Ray Aspa, Jr. and Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr.

But this proposal, so far, does hold promise for CRIT. The promise of the kind of revenue that could significantly improve the quality of life on our reservation, and the promise of the kind of job creation that will continue to make a difference.

## Your Tribal Council at work for you

## Flores pledges to work for all Tribal members

Fernando "Bo" Flores was elected to the Tribal Council in December after serving on the council from 1993-1999.

Flores, who manages the CRIT Auto Shop, said his long-standing "open-door" policy was a key factor in his election victory.

"I've always had a soft heart for my people



Fernando "Bo" Flores

and have always been open to their issues and concerns," he said.

Flores has been with the CRIT Auto Shop for 27 years. He started as the only mechanic on staff and now oversees a staff of 15 people.

"I never intended to get

into politics, but all of my uncles were

politicians so I've grown up with it," he said.

He said his primary goal for his upcoming term is the protection of CRIT's water rights.

"We need to utilize our water as much as possible because other people want to take it," he said.

Flores said he wants to explore economic development opportunities and make sure CRIT is making the most of its resources.

"There's just so much we can do with our land that we haven't done — not just development, but even with things like wildlife and habitats as well."

He also said he wants to get the new juvenile facility up and running, as well as improving senior and elder services and increasing communication with members.

"The thing I like about being on Tribal Council is working for the people," he said. "My goal is to see the people's needs fulfilled."

"I will be here for people and always have an open-door policy," he said. "I thank them for their support and will continue to do the same things I've done for many years."

#### New Wal-Mart center to create new jobs, revenue for CRIT

As reported on Page 1, CRIT is entering into an agreement with Wal-Mart Stores on a new retail center, to open sometime in 2006.

The new Wal-Mart center will generate an estimated \$400,000 annually in Tribal sales tax revenue as well as a large number of new jobs for Tribal members. Convenience for our people will be increased as well.

This is another exciting opportunity for CRIT, and a great example of how Tribal members can benefit through partnerships with the private sector. The Wal-Mart center is the kind of new economic development that will greatly benefit our community.

Not only will it provide new jobs and revenue that can be used for key community services, it will be an important resource that the Parker area and the CRIT reservation have not had in the community before.

The CRIT Tribal Government and Tribal Council are always open to ways to create new

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Site of the planned new Wal-Mart, across from the Safeway Shopping Center in Parker.

economic development opportunities for our people, and this is just one of several new ventures currently underway.

This Wal-Mart center, along with such economic development opportunities as the new proposed Blythe casino, will be instrumental in meeting many Tribal needs in the future.

#### 

#### Want to comment on what you see here?

The *Manataba Messenger* encourages letters to the editor. We will publish a maximum of 250 words; longer letters will be edited for length. You may send letters to:

Route 1, Box 23-B Parker, AZ 85344

You may also e-mail letters to critnews@aol.com

## Kids shine again in photo contest



#### Submit now, win money in April

Gloria Hurliman is the winner of the February *Manataba Messenger* photo contest with her photo of her granddaughter Ajani Lambert (above). She will receive \$100 for her entry.

Second prize went to Jodi and Jason Scott for their photo of their daughter Jasmine dressed up for Halloween (right). They win \$50.

Third prize went to Rinda Setoyant for her photo of granddaughters Marissa and Tiana overlooking the Colorado River on a warm sunny day (lower right). She will receive \$25.

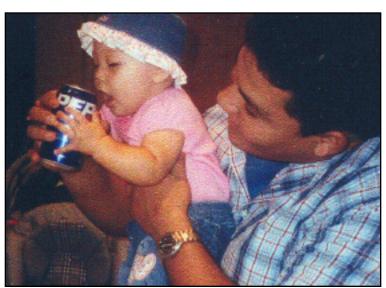
Honorable mention goes to Sage Harper for her photo of Britlee Harper taking a drink (below).

The photo contest will take place in every issue! The next issue of the *Manataba Messenger* will come out around April 1st. The deadline for submissions for the photo contest is March 15. You must be a tribal member to be eligible.

To enter, just send your picture to the following address and e-mail:

Manataba Messenger C/O Rose & Allyn Public Relations 7051 E. 5th Avenue Suite B Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Or just e-mail the entry to critnews@aol.com.







## **Upcoming Events**

#### Acts scheduled for Dig Lounge

The following events are coming up at the Dig Lounge at the BlueWater Resort & Casino:

**February 9-12:** Suite 33, a high-energy variety dance band featuring Top 40, Classic Rock, 50-60's and variety dance music.

**February 16-19:** La Lyons, a female singer fronting a three-piece band playing variety dance, disco and rhythm & blues.

**February 23-26:** American Made, a four-piece band playing a variety of music from the 50-60's, disco, country, Top 40 and oldies.

**March 2-5:** Swift Kick, specializing in dance music and selections from the 50-60's.

**March 9-12:** Walker Williams, a five-piece band specializing in country and classic rock.

**March 16-19:** Applause, playing hits from the 50-60's, classic rock and country.

**March 22-27:** DNA, a variety dance band performing rhythm & blues, Motown, Top 40 dance and classic rock.

Every Monday night is Karaoke at the Dig Lounge, with Billy Joe Preston. DJ/dance music is played every Sunday & Tuesday.

#### Featured events at BlueWater

- On February 14, Ray Price will be in concert in the BlueWater Bingo Concert Hall. There will be two shows that night, with the first show at 6 p.m. and the second at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale in the Gift Shop for \$27.50 in advance and \$32.50 the day of the show.
- February 6 will be the Super Sunday Party in the Dig Lounge. There will be a \$10 cover charge, which starts at 3 p.m. and includes your favorite game food and more. The price also includes tickets for prize giveaways. The Grand Prize is a recliner chair and TV. Watch the big game on the only 10-foot screen in town. Get to the lounge seating is limited.
- February 19 & 20 will be the PWC 2004 APBA Endurance Regional Championship. Come check out the personal watercraft racing at its best. The River's Edge Cantina, located on the river, will be the official headquarters for this event. For more information contact Ross Wallach at (562) 633-6200.
- On March 25, the Gin Blossoms will be in concert in the BlueWater Amphitheatre. Gates open at 5 p.m. and the concert starts at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$20 in advance and \$25 day-of-show. For more information, call (888) 243-3360 ext. 7035.
- BlueWater Resort & Casino's prime river frontage will be the site for the 20th Annual Parker International Water Ski Racing Marathon on March 12 and 13. This race attracts the top marathon water ski racers from around the world. Races will be staged from the BlueWater's Beach. For more information contact Ron Swanson at (310) 322-9404.
- From March 24-27, more than 100 skydivers from all over the world will literally be dropping in for the 3rd Annual BlueWater River Boogie. Spectators are welcome. The more adventurous can make tandem parachute jumps at the BlueWater River Boogie. For more information contact Scott Smith at (951) 657-3904.

Happy Valentine's Day Arceilia, Hoss, Fiona, Clint Jr. Love, Your Secret Admirerer

Happy Valentine's Day Dennis Martin, Lola Wood, Yvonne Barley Love Always, Guess Who?

Happy Valentine's Day to all my grandchildren. Love, So'oh Kathy

Happy Valentinne's Day to Marcus Tuchawena. Love, Qia'ah Lenelle

From Ron Charles and the Department of Cultural Tourism Office: Happy 13th Birthday to Mariah A. Charles We Love You, Mom & Dad

Happy Valentine's Day to Mrs. Lillian Charles, Joshua, Lisa, Sierra & Noah, From Ron Charles

I would like to wish CRIT a safe and happy Valentine's Day.

Val sends X's & O's:

To my many honey bunches of "O"s, Omosai and my Tahbos (Viinne, Richard, Laynee, Tayla, Lorenzo and Jo) and most affectionately to my hubby Randy, wishing you all the very sweetest gifts in the world. Love you too, Mom. Happy Valentine's — Me Mouse/Mom, a.k.a. Valerie Welsh-Tahbo

Happy Valentine's Day to all of my family. Especially my three beautiful daughters, Hepah, Kiki and Es-Mana. I love you all. Mom, Sis, Auntie, Cousin, Cindy

Happy Valentine's Day to my daughter Deaun and my nieces Sheila and Leyla.

From Momma and Aunt Mickey

Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Anniversary to my husband, Randy! I love you, Francine.

Happy Valentine's Day to the "Squirrel" I love, Mom & Dad.

Happy Valentine's Day to Brittlee Jade Harber from Grandma Ursula and Grandpa Dennis. We love you!

Happy Valentine's Day to Kailan Sean Harper from Grandma Ursula and Grandpa Dennis. We love you very much!



Happy Valentine's Day to my little Nanna Bug. May your day be filled with lots of love, 0000 and XXXX.

Love 'Am-ma.

To my Hunny-Bunny...LaLaLaLaLaLaLaLaLa means "I love you." Happy Valentine's Day. Love Sugar Shorts.

Mom, wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day. You are #1 in my heart. Love Chickey

Happy Valentine's Day Rosie, Eric & Dione. Love always lights the way when the skies are darkest. I love you, Mom.

Blessings of love to my lil' sweethearts, Ty, Garrett, Tyson, Baby Jake, Our Sweet Grandbaby on the Way, and to the love of my life Gary!!! Love, Mom and Gammy

Happy Valentine's Day to my sisters...my Rocks of Gibraltar! I love you both very much!

Love, your baby sis...Chickey.

Happy Valentine's Day to my best friend Delora. I miss you each and every day of my life. Memories of your smile, your laughter and your kindness will forever be in my heart.

Love, Doris and kids.

To our Mariah — Words can't express how much We Love You. You are Our Sunchine on Every Clear or Cloudy Day...We are so happy you are in our lives. We Love You with all our hearts...Happy Valentine's Day "Bug".

Love, Mom, Momma & Papa.

To Mr. Sexy Diapers (Kailan Sean),
I just wanted to wish you a very Happy Valentine's Day. You ahve been such a very good little boy and I just want you to know that I love you very much! Butas Butas Butas!!!

Happy 2nd Valentine's Day EVER!

Love, Mommy

Wishing a "Happy Valentine's Day" to my brothers, and their family, Jimmy Dean, Joe-Joe, Jerry, Johnny, Mike and Leonard. "Happy Valentine's Day to my sister Joanne Hill-Hernandez and her family, too! Love you all! "Penny"

"Happy Valentine's Day" to my Special Tribes, Conrad, Marty, Danny, Robert, Susan, Leticia and Loreen. With lots of Love, Hugs and Kisses, MOM

To: Orlando From: Ger "Still"

To: Lamb From: Duck My love my life partner and my friend  $\infty$ 

To: Man & Dee From: The Family

Lots of love & hugs to the Greatest Goats the Good Lord could have sent us. ♥

To: My Thither From: Your Thither All the love your mind, heart, body and soul can hold

Happy Valentine's Day Son Love You. From Dad.

To Lola W. Happy Valentine's Day. From Dennis M.

To my dearest daughter, Tianna Vinae Robledo May you have the sweetest Valentine's Day, sweetie!! Jesus Loves You and so do I. Love, Mom

To lalesha Rain Mike,
Happy Valentine's Day to my little princess!
To K-Lee J. Yeahquo,
For your very first Valentine's Day. My little sweetheart!
To Jacoby N. Yeahquo,
Hope your Valentine's Day is filled with lots of fun and candy (smile). God bless you!
Love grandma, Roxane\*

To Marinita Short Carlos.

Have a very Special Valentines Day from all of us here in Parker whom considers you as our "OHHHH SWEEETHEART" We Love you mom for all that you so for us thank you.

From: Orlando, Gerry, O-Jay, the Goats, George, Juno and Muriel.
Oh and also from Pops the Original blue oyster bar manager.

## Valentine's Day — February 14, 2005





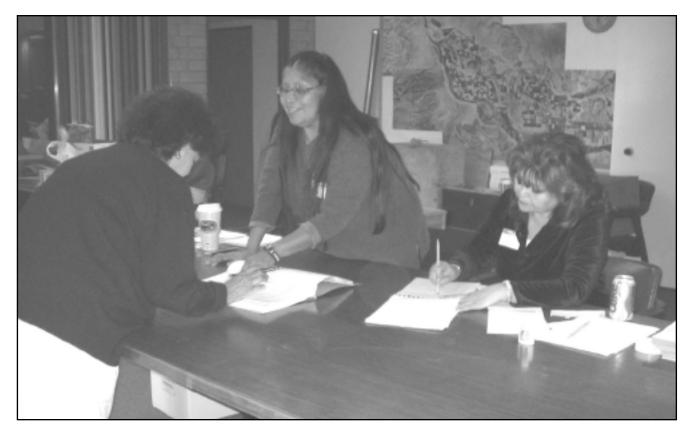
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## Tribal members cast their votes



## Winners sworn into office during January, will serve for four-year terms

Voters flocked to the polls on December 4, 2004 for the CRIT Tribal Council elections.

Almost two dozen candidates ran for Chairman and three Tribal Council seats that were being decided in the vote.

(Above) Turnout was heavy at the polls at the CRIT Tribal Government Offices.

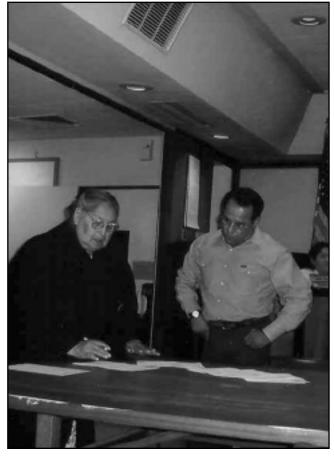
(Right) Bo Flores was the winner of one of the three open Tribal Council seats, and was sworn into office in early January during a ceremony in Tribal Council Chambers.

Flores had served previously on Tribal Council over the past 10 years.

Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. was reelected as Chairman, a position he has held for almost a quarter-century.

Also re-elected to Tribal Council seats were incumbents Dennis Patch, Valerie Welsh-Tahbo and Herman "TJ" Laffoon.

All winners were elected to a four-year term. The next Tribal elections will be in December 2006



## **CRIT Museum plans county fair participation**

The CRIT Museum is encouraging Tribal members to take part in this year's La Paz County Fair, which will be held from March 10-13.

The theme for this year is "Desert Dreams," and the Museum is in charge of Indian arts and crafts. Entries will be taken on March 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the BlueWater Resort & Casino Hopi Room. Items received after 1 p.m. will be for display only. For more information, call the Museum at (928) 669-1335.

#### Heard Museum plans art show, sale

The Heard Museum in Phoenix has scheduled the 16th Annual Native American Student Art Show & Sale for April 2-6. Entries will be received from March 18-22, judging will be March 25, and two preview days will be held on

March 31 and April 1. The show is for Native American students in grades 7-12. Applications can be picked up at the CRIT Museum and from Parker High School Art Teacher Mr. Cleere.

#### Beaded cape stolen from Museum

On or about December 14, a beaded Mohave cape was stolen from the CRIT Museum. It was discovered missing by Museum staff at the end of the day, and how it was stolen is unclear. The cape has a white background with dark blue diamonds, and would fit a young girl. It was made by Lynnette Stevens, and was the first cape she ever made. If someone tries to sell a cape matching this description, please call the CRIT Police Department at (928) 669-9277 or the Museum at (928) 669-1335.

## **CRIT BRIEFS**

#### News from around the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation

Parker High hospitality students get presentation on Tribal tourism



On December 14, CRIT Tourism Director Ron Charles (above, white shirt with sticker) presented a summary of Tribal tourism attractions to the Parker High School hospitality class. The class, instructed by Jackie White, learned more about the CRIT Museum, CRIT Library, Ahakhav Preserve, Poston Monument and BlueWater Resort & Casino.

This is the fourth year Charles has given such a presentation to Parker High's hospitality class, and it was well-received by students.

#### Free car seats available from Injury Prevention for many Tribal families

The Tribal Traffic Code states that any child under 4 years old or less than 40 pounds must ride in a car seat, and all passengers must be wearing a seat belt.

The Injury Prevention Program has free car seats available for all sizes. If you are you eligible for services through Indian Health Services or a CRIT Tribal Member and have a child between the age of newborn and 8 years of age, who weighs between 5-80 pounds, and you have not received a booster seat through the Injury Prevention Program, then you qualify for a FREE car seat. If you meet these requirements please call Bylli Esquerra at (928) 669-6577 to schedule an appointment or stop by the CRIT Department of Health and Social Services Building located on Agency Road.

## Buckskin Mountain Desert Dash scheduled for February 19th

On Saturday, February 19, 2005, the 14th Annual Buckskin Mountain Desert Dash will be held, on Cienega Springs Road, along the river.

This is a 5-mile mountain bike-5 kilometer run-5 kilometer fitness walk.

The CRIT Special Diabetes Project will be sponsoring participants. So now is the time to start training for the 5K Walk/Run!

Please make sure to check with your doctor before starting any fitness program.

For more information, contact the CRIT Special Diabetes Project at (928) 669-2825.

**More Briefs on Page 10** 

## Manataba Messenger Interviews...

## **Scott promotes cooperation as new County Supervisor**

Mary Scott was elected to the La Paz County Board of Supervisors in the November 2004 election. The Quartzsite resident recently visited Tribal Headquarters and met with CRIT leaders to discuss ways the County can work with CRIT on important issues. The *Manataba Messenger* interviewed her, and here are her responses.

#### Q: How long have you lived in Quartzsite?

A: I moved to Quartzsite July 1, 1971 from Sacramento. It was a big change for a city girl. I liked the slower pace of living and fell in love with the desert. I married my husband, Frank in 1976. His family is the original Scott family of Quartzsite. His grandmother had cattle, mined gold, ran



Supervisor Mary Scott

the post office and general store and had 12 children here.

## Q: What made you decide to run for the position of County Supervisor?

A: I felt the past supervisor was not responsive to the Dist. 3 residents needs and concerns. I was

also concerned about the sludge being brought into our county, especially through the community of Quartzsite.

## Q: What is your past experience that makes you qualified to be a La Paz County Supervisor?

A: I owned and operated my own accounting business for eleven years. I was the first Magistrate for the Town of Quartzsite and the Justice of the Peace for Quartzsite Justice Court for twelve years. I have a proven record of successfully meeting my fiscal, managerial and leadership responsibilities. I have worked hard to earn my reputation as a fair, honest and impartial citizen and community leader.

#### Q: List some of your priorities for the year.

A: Priority one would be water. We need to take steps to make sure our water supply is protected and will be adequate for future growth. Second would be planning and zoning. We need a master plan that will guide and promote future growth. Third would be better working relationships with the communities and governments in La Paz County.

## Q: What is one of the most challenging issues you see facing La Paz County?

A: I think the biggest challenge facing our county, especially Dist. 3 is growth. Our biggest

industries are tourism and agriculture. Because of the growth of the county, these industries are in conflict with each other. There are many RV parks and personal homes being built next to agricultural properties causing conflict. The biggest challenge would be to find compromise to allow for future growth in both industries . A master zoning plan would be one way to help decrease future conflict between the two and help guide future growth.

## Q: How do you see the County working with CRIT during your tenure?

A: I would like to see the County and CRIT with open and receptive working relationships during my tenure. It can be beneficial to both the County and CRIT to keep open lines of communication and be receptive to each others needs and concerns.

## Q: If a tribal member would like to contact you, what should they do?

A: If a Tribal member wishes to contact me my e-mail address is mscott@co.la-paz.az.us and the office number is (928) 669-6115.

I'm looking forward to the next four years and hope to see La Paz County and CRIT working together and being able to take advantage of economic opportunities and jointly plan for future growth.

## Birthdays



February 28 — Dana Rene Enas
"Happy 17th Birthday"
With Love From Auntie Steph and Grandma



March 29th — Kathy Enas
"Happy Birthday: Mom, So-oh"
With Love From your Children
and Grandchildren.





March 10 — Layla Alexis Yarbrough "Happy 1st Birthday "Rica'" From Grandpa Jr and Stephanie.



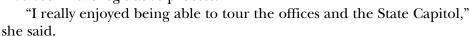
Ernie Enas — "Happy 16th Birthday" With Love From Auntie Steph and Grandma.

#### Announcements

Tribal member Lynnis Gonzales, a sophomore at Parker High School, recently attended the YMCA Youth & Government Program Student VIP Day at the State Capitol in Phoenix.

The once-a-year program was held in December, and provided students with an opportunity to learn in a hands-on setting about the workings of Arizona government.

The students played the roles of legislators, lobbyists, judges, attorneys and virtually everyone involved in the legislative process.



Gonzales, who is president of the Parker High School sophomore class, said she learned a lot from the program and would recommend it to other students.

She was one of 120 outstanding students statewide selected to the conference, which endeavored to teach students about the key principles of citizenship, leadership, service, diversity, skills, self-confidence, values and respect.

Tonia and Anthony Stone Jr. would like to wish their children Happy Birthday: Nokomis Irene Stone turns 4 on February 14, Orlando Valentino Short Jr. turns 17 on March 29th, Vernon Seanclae Short turns 7 on April 16, and Latonya Valentina Short turns 18 on April 18.

The *Manataba Messenger* welcomes submissions for anniversaries, wedding announcements, obituaries, graduations and other events. For contact information, see Page 12 of this issue.



## **CRIT Student Athletes' Corner**

"Athletes' Corner" is a new section starting this month in the *Manataba Messenger*. In the coming months, we will be highlighting athletes from both the junior high and high schools attended by CRIT students.

#### **Whitney Che'Lyn Sharpe**

• Current Ms. CRIT, who participated in the pageant "To expand and share my knowledge of our tribes and continue my goal in reaching and empowering our youth to succeed as native students. Also, for the opportunity to learn from other cultures."



- 17-year-old senior at Parker High School.
- Parents are Tia Laffoon and Issac Sharpe.
- Wants to be first Native American in WNBA.
- Parker High Volleyball Team: 1st Team all 3A West Region, 2004; 1st Team State All Conferences (2003), All Tournament Team, Havasu Invitational (2003), 2nd Team State All Conferences (2002).
- Parker High Basketball Team: Team member of the Arizona Heat at the Down Under Tournament in Australia, winning the Bronze Medal (2004); 2nd Team State All Conferences (2003, 2004); All Tournament Team, Maricopa and Camp Verde Invitationals, 2003.
- Parker High Track: 1st Place 4 x 800 Relay, 4th Place 4 x 100 Relay, 2nd Place 4 x 400 relay, 2003 Arizona Regional Track Meet; 4th Place 4 x

800 Relay, 2003 Arizona State Track Meet.

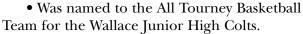
- Perfect Attendance Award, 2002.
- Other activities: Summer Camp Leader, CRIT Recreation Sports Camp (2002, 2004); Secretary of Parker High School Native American Awareness Society (2004); Member of Parker High School Hoops Club (2002, 2003).

#### **WiliMik Yazzie**

- 15-year-old Freshman at Parker High.
- Son of Milton "Mick" Yazzie and Symanthia

Ameelyenah; of Mohave and Navajo descent.

- Hobbies are basketball, swimming, cross country, and playing XBox games.
- Started sports career at Wallace Junior High, where he played on basketball team in 7th and 8th grades.



- Just finished track season, when he ran on the cross country team. Basketball season has started and he is the only Freshman on the Parker High School Broncs Varsity team this year.
- Wants to attend college when he graduates from high school, and he would like to play professional basketball.
- Enjoys school; his favorite subject is math. He had perfect attendance during his junior high years and is on his way to another year of perfect attendance.

## **SPEAK OUT**

#### **What's on Tribal Members' minds...**

#### Chris Harper About Pop Warner Football in Parker



"It's fun. The kids enjoyed it. They learned about teamwork and it was good to see a lot of Tribal members playing. It is a good thing for both the Tribe and the town."

#### Melinda Sanderson On Tribal services for elders



"It takes too long to access services and too often those services are not being given by professionals. It is also important for elders to know what services are available and how to access them."

#### Judy Eddy On economic development



"Both the casino in Parker and the upcoming casino in Blythe were good moves for the Tribe. They are a definite step forward."

# Colorado River Building Materials



# A Full-Service Hardware Store & Lumberyard

600 Riverside Drive Parker, Arizona 85344 (928) 669-9254

## Weddings



#### Barley-Smart Jr. Wedding

Olivia Barley (CRIT tribal member) and Eddie Smart, Jr. were joined in marriage by Rev. Sheldon Swick, Sr. on October 16, 2004, at Grace Assembly of God Church in Parker, AZ.

Olivia is the daughter of Armando Barley, Sr. and Marian Patch. Eddie's parents are Eddie Smart, Sr. of Ft. McDermitt, NV, and Laura Flores. Joining them in marriage are children Taylor and Julie Smart of North Dakota and Jordan Harper.

The wedding party consisted of Vanessa Barley-Laffoon (Maid of Honor), Regina Barley, Jennifer Mata (Barley), Carolyn Tina Duncan (Welsh), Cyndie Gonzales, Kim Booth, Missie Pettis (Stillman), Fernando Bo Flores, Jr. (Best Man), Dave Savala, Chris Harper, Donald Schlecht, Charlie Aspa, Steve Eddy, Jeff Avery; Flower Girls Myrita Barley and Tesla Stillman; Ring Bearers Havoc Stillman and Jordan Harper; Ushers Martin Patch and Brandon Barley; and Hostess Candy Escorza.

The *Manataba Messenger* welcomes submissions for anniversaries, wedding announcements, obituaries, graduations and other events. For contact information, see Page 12 of this issue.

# Town of Parker elections coming on March 8th

Eight candidates for four council seats; residents vote on two questions as well

Town of Parker residents will choose between eight candidates for four Town Council seats in the March 8, 2005 election. Tribal members living inside the Town limits are eligible to vote and encouraged to participate.

The council candidates are elected to fouryear terms. The incumbents are:

- Jeff Baird
- Karen Bonds
- Jerry Hooper
- Marion Shontz

They are being challenged by:

- Christine Boatwright
- Rodney Clause
- Duce Minor
- Frank Savino

Additionally, two ballot questions will be presented to Parker voters. Proposition 300 would extend the Alternative Expenditure Limitation for the Town of Parker. Additionally, voters will be asked if they want to renew the "Franchise" agreement with Arizona Public Service to provide electricity in the community.

There will be two polling places:

- Precinct 51 Parker-One, which will be at the United Methodist Church at 1300 Ocotillo Ave.
- Precinct 53 Parker-Two, which will be at St. Vincent de Paul at 1015 Joshua Avenue (the old CCD Center).

Voters who are currently registered can find the polling place where they will vote on the mailing label of the publicity pamphlet mailed to homes by the Town of Parker.

The last day to register to vote in the election is February 7th. Early ballots are available starting on February 3rd at the La Paz County Recorder's Office, located at 1112 Joshua Avenue, Suite 201. Voters may also call (928) 669-6136 for early ballot information.

## **CRIT EPO begins massive cleanup**



Inmates from the CRIT jail help clean up the "Mama Blues" area in one of the largest cleanup projects ever undertaken by CRIT's Environmental Protection Office. It is part of a joint effort with several other agencies.

The CRIT Environmental Protection Office has embarked on one of its largest cleanup efforts ever of a dump site on the reservation.

The EPO is working with the Town of Parker and La Paz County agencies to clean up the "Mama Blues" site. It is an old, illegal dump site located about a quarter-mile north of Fourth Street and Geronimo Avenue. Mama Blues was a work camp in the 1940s and has slowly accumulated solid waste over the years.

It is currently being cleaned up by inmates from CRIT's jail, the CRIT EPO cleanup crew and CRIT Solid Waste Transfer Site employees. These groups are working in conjunction with the other agencies on an effort that has involved many community members.

#### West Nile prevention efforts begin

In other EPO news, the office has begun

early prevention measures to curtail the spread of West Nile Virus when the weather gets warmer. West Nile is a dangerous virus that is spread by mosquitoes. Infected mosquitoes were found on the CRIT reservation last year, but no actual cases of West Nile were reported.

The EPO encourages residents to take these steps to prevent the spread of West Nile:

- Don't leave standing water around for long periods of time, such as buckets, pools, old tires or anything that can contain water.
- Clean up debris, grass cuttings and weeds. They serve as a mosquito breeding ground.
- Use mosquito repellent to protect yourself from mosquitoes when outside.
- When looking for mosquito repellent for children or infants, try to find products that are organic and don't contain deet.

For more information on West Nile Virus, contact the EPO at (928) 662-4336.

## Fish and Game implements new guidelines for mesquite harvest

**By David Martinez** 

CRIT Fish and Game Department

Please be advised that, effective as of January 3, mesquite harvest (wood cutting) permits will be issued for a five-day period in order to monitor mesquite harvest more effectively.

Mesquite harvest permits are required in order to cut mesquite.

Also effective as of this date, Mesquite Harvest Areas have been designated within the Souther (Ehrenberg) Mesquite Management District and Poston Mesquite Management Districts.

Maps to harvest areas will be supplied with each permit issues. The corners of harvest areas are marked with posts.

Please harvest mesquite <u>only from designated</u> <u>mesquite harvest areas</u> within these Management Districts. Please harvest <u>only paint-marked trees</u> and limbs within these harvest areas.

**Mesquite Harvesting Guidelines:** 

- Permits required; issued for five-day periods.
- Must harvest within designated areas.
- Don't cut trees less than six feet tall.
- Leave unmarked dead trees (snags) alone.

In other areas, please harvest <u>only</u> dead trees and limbs. Also, please avoid cutting or damaging mesquite less than six feet tall.

Certain large snags (dead trees) will <u>not</u> be paint-marked for harvest. <u>Please leave unmarked snags standing</u>. Retaining a small number of large snags provides nesting habitat for woodpeckers that feed on insects that affect healthy tree growth.

The purpose of these management actions is

to promote regrowth of mesquite by selectively removing dead trees, limiting the creation of large open areas (salt cedar tends to invade open areas unless shaded by living mesquite), retaining seed-producing trees within harvest areas, allowing young trees to mature into usable trees, and providing habitat for woodpeckers that feed on insect pest species.

When usable wood is exhausted within harvest areas, new harvest areas will be designated. The previous areas will be closed to harvest and allowed to regenerate to produce wood for the future.

We request your full cooperation in order to preserve our mesquite resources for future generations. We also request that you report any illegal harvest of wood by non-Tribal members to the CRIT Fish and Game Department at (928) 669-9285. Thank you.

# Study finds significant impact from proposed CRIT/Blythe casino



Steve Klett of Ernst & Young presents the results of an economic impact study on the proposed CRIT-Blythe casino to a meeting of the CRIT Tribal Council and Blythe City Council. Findings were presented earlier in the day to the Blythe Chamber of Commerce.

#### Millions in new revenue, hundreds of new jobs could be created

A proposed gaming facility in Blythe, Calif. could generate millions of dollars each year for CRIT, Blythe and the state of California, while also generating hundreds of new jobs.

Those are the findings of an economic impact study done over the past few months by the national accounting firm of Ernst & Young and presented to the CRIT Tribal Council, Blythe City Council and Blythe Chamber of Commerce on January 18th.

A Blythe casino is expected to generate more than the BlueWater Resort & Casino because of its proximity to Interstate 10.

Additionally, such a facility would result in almost 300 new jobs, according to the study, which would come from throughout the area.

And casino operations are expected to generate more than 600,000 visitors per year to

"The opening of the casino is anticipated to help (Blythe) become more of a tourist destination."

 Findings of an economic impact study on proposed new Blythe Casino by the national accounting firm of Ernst & Young

Blythe, generating more than 75,000 hotel room nights.

"The opening of the casino is anticipated to help the city become more of a tourist destination," the report said. "Not only will this add new jobs but additional spending will result in expansion of business in the area."

The Ernst & Young study was conducted over the past few months, and its conclusions were based on the examination of the area's economy, revenue generated by other gaming facilities and a number of other factors.

## Health Center gives tips on lice; plans OB/prenatal clinic

The Parker Indian Health Center has provided the following tips and recommendations on how to avoid head lice:

Signs and Symptoms: Head lice is a tiny brown and gray parasite that can cause itching and scratching in areas of the body covered with hair (typically on the head). You may be able to see tiny lice eggs (called "nits") on your children's hair shafts. It is more common to see nits in a child's hair than it is to see live lice on the scalp.

**Description:** Lice live on human hairs and draw blood from the skin and lay nits on the hair shaft, close to the skin surface, where the temperature is perfect for incubation. Lice bites may cause inflammation and itching, and they can become infected.

Lice can live in clothing, bed linens, combs, brushes and hats that come in contact with an infected person.

Children and teens are most prone to catching lice because they are likely to share such personal items and because they are often in close physical contact with other infected children. Six to 12 million people are infested with lice each year.

**Prevention:** Head lice is not a sign of uncleanliness, but you can prevent it by taking these precautions:

- Avoid contact with a person who has lice.
- Not sharing combs, brushes, hats, scarves, ribbons or other personal items.
- Examining and treating members of your household who have had contact with a person with lice.
- Keeping your child home from school or community events after treatment for lice.

Itching doesn't always start right away — it depends on how sensitive a person's skin is to lice. Medicated shampoos, creams and lotions can end a lice infestation right away, but the itching may last about five more days.

#### **OB/Prenatal Clinic scheduled**

An OB/Prenatal Clinic has been scheduled at the Parker Indian Health Center. The clinic will be with Dr. Rizos, and will be from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the center. For more information, call Jennifer at (928) 669-3246.

## Work on Poston restoration presses forward with key donation

The restoration project to make Poston a museum and multicultural center is rolling along — literally.

Virginia Ramsey of Parker has donated the barracks next to the Lemon Tree Nursery to the Tribes. It will be loaded on a trailer and relocated to the museum site.

It is one of the few remaining double-roofed examples of the buildings built during World War II for housing Japanese-Americans at the internment camps.

The structure is in excellent condition, given the fact that it is over 60 years old. Funds are currently being sought to move the barrack, stabilize it and use it as part of the exhibit.

Also, members of the Infrastructure/ Construction Committee met on January 21 (as this issue was going to press) at Arizona State University to make decisions regarding layout of the museum site.

This includes restoration of the gym, classrooms and barracks, and construction of a visitors center.

For more information on the Poston restoration project, visit the project's website: http://www3.jjc.edu/WOW/default.htm.



Work continues to create a museum and multicultural center near the Poston Monument site.

## **CRIT BRIEFS**

## News from around the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation (continued)

#### **CRIT** Royalty Board has two openings

The CRIT Royalty Board currently has two openings and is soliciting applications for those positions. The Board oversees the activities of the reigning Tribal queens, their academic progress, scholarship insurance and the annual pageant each October.

If you are energetic, enthusiastic and don't mind giving up some free time for cultural preservation, this is a great volunteer opportunity. The deadline for submitting your name is February 14th at 5 p.m. To submit your name, call Valerie at (928) 669-5548.

#### "Mr. CRIT" pageant on April 15

The CRIT Royalty Board also announced that it will hold a "Mr. CRIT" pageant.

The event is scheduled to be held on April 15th at the BlueWater Resort & Casino. Admission to the pageant is \$10, and the entry fee for participants will be \$25. Categories will be "Little Scout" (ages 6-11), "Brave" (ages 12-16) and "Mr. CRIT" (ages 17-24).

All contestants will be judged in the same categories as in the Ms. CRIT Pageant, including modern and traditional modeling, interviews and traditional talent. Applications will be made available in February, and the deadline to apply will be March 25 at 5 p.m. For more information, call Valerie at (928) 669-5548.

#### Career resources on new web site

The Career Development Office has launched a new web site to provide information on higher education, adult vocational training, direct employment, youth program and federal boarding school services. The web site also provides announcements and deadline for funding cycles, as well as application forms. The site can be viewed at www.crit-cdo.com.

#### **CRIT** receives major Diabetes grant

CRIT received a grant in late 2004 for \$404,000 to be used for diabetes prevention, education and treatment by the CRIT Special Diabetes Project. The grant came form the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

It was presented to CRIT in an October ceremony by Don Davis, Phoenix-Area Indian Health Services Director, and accepted by Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr., Diabetes Project Manager Doris Burns and Tribal Councilmembers Cindy Homer, Dennis Patch and Russell Welch.

#### Auto shop lost and found

If you have used motorpool vehicles during the year and left items in the vehicle, CRIT Auto may have your items in storage. Starting February 1, the Auto Shop will hold items for 30 days, then the items will be destroyed. For more information, call Merial Scott at (928) 669-1377.

## Bicycle Rodeo program a success



Dozens of children participated in the Bicycle Rodeo, held during Native American Days in October.

During the 32nd Annual Native American Days Celebration in October, the CRIT Injury Prevention Program held its first Bicycle Rodeo. The event was held at Four Corners, and 32 children participated. All bikes were registered with the CRIT Police Department and repaired by Robert Esquerra from the CRIT Fire Department and Jesse Flores from the CRIT Police Department.

All participants received a 10-15 minute lecture on bicycle safety from Officer Barnett of the CRIT Police Department and rode the three obstacle courses.

There were five age groups (6-7, 8-9, 10-11, and 12-13) that participated in the event. The top boy and girl from each age group were awarded a new bicycle.

The winners were Cody Esquerra and Patricia Pena (6-7), Jordan Scott and Katie Cosman (8-9), Ryan Ameelyenah and Ashley Jimenez (10-11), Aaron Drennan and Kevin Cosman (12-13).

The Injury Prevention Program would like to thank all the parents that brought their children to participate and all the people who offered there services to make our youth safer.

## **Project provides New Year's health tips**

#### By the CRIT Special Diabetes Project

If one of your New Year's Resolutions is to lose weight or get healthier, let the CRIT Special Diabetes Project help. We have trained, certified trainers who will gladly help you in this endeavor.

Here are 10 tips to help you get started:

- 1. Check with your doctor to see if you are in good condition to start exercising. This is just to make sure you don't injure yourself more and delay your progress.
- 2. If you have not been active within the last five years, start out walking 15 minutes a day.
- 3. Starting a slow, consistent program will help keep your weight off.
- 4. Start cutting down on portion sizes. Keep portions down, and only one serving.
- 5. Start eating breakfast. This kick-starts your day. Not only will you start feeling better, you will have brain power for a full day of work or school.
- 6. WATER, WATER, WATER, WATER, WATER, WATER, WATER, WATER, WATER. You need the fluid to cleanse your body of toxins. It will help you lose weight, too! Eight 8-ounce servings of water are recommended per day.
- 7. Beware of liquids that contain calories. Good examples are Gatorade, fruit juices and some flavored waters.
- 8. Remember, sugar comes from many different forms: corn syrup, honey, sucrose,

dextrose, maltose and galactose. Beware of words ending in "ose."

- 9. Always use fresh fruit and vegetables whenever possible. Use frozen fruit and vegetables as a second choice. When fruits and vegetables are canned, up to 90 percent of vitamins and minerals are lost in the process.
- 10. Go out there, chase your dreams be true to yourself and get healthy. Remember, be consistent with your program.

Adults should also strive to meet either of the following physical activity recommendations.

- Adults should engage in moderate-intensity physical activities for at least 30 minutes on 5 or more days of the week, or;
- Adults should engage in vigorous-intensity physical activity 3 or more days per week for 20 or more minutes per occasion.

Following these recommended guidelines help in lowering your Blood Glucose levels and help delay the onset of Diabetes.

Our class hours are Monday through Friday at 6 a.m., 12 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Our treadmills are available from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. We now offer Tae Bo Classes Tuesday and Thursday nights at Irataba Hall from 6 to 7 p.m. Our office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact the CRIT Special Diabetes Project at (928) 669-2825.

## Foster care families sought for CRIT children in need

The CRIT Department of Health and Social Services needs foster care families of all kids that are patient, committed, able to show love and set limits, and willing to open their home to Tribal children.

The ideal homes are willing to help children of all ages heal and acquire positive parenting skills, willing to understand and accept the differences in all children, and that are brave, caring and interested in preserving the future heritage of our Tribes.

Under the Indian Child Welfare Act and Tribal codes, children who are removed from their homes due to neglect, abuse, abandonment or other maltreatment are preferred to be placed with extended family members.

But when that's not possible, the next priority is other Tribal member families. Only 10 percent of the current licensed CRIT foster care homes are Tribal homes.

The types of care needed are regular foster care, receiving foster care (for immediate and temporary placement) and respite care (temporary short-term care). Licensed homes are reimbursed on a monthly basis for the basic care of each child in a home. Health and Social Services also provides training for foster parents.

To learn more about the requirements and how to get started, call the CRIT Health and Social Services Department at (928) 669-6093.

# Education Dept. targets absences

The Education Department is working with various tribal departments to improve school attendance by CRIT students.

LePera School recorded an absence rate of almost 10 percent during the first quarter. Research shows that parents and guardians who make sure their kids are in school every day assist greatly in the future success of that child.

Staff are identifying students with excess absences and Education Director Dennis Patch, has sent letters encouraging parents to make sure their children are attending. Education is working in conjunction with CPS, Social Services, the Attorney General, prosecutors, judges and probation to address this issue. The goal is to craft a flow chart to assist with the proper procedures for enforcing parental responsibility.

#### Parents encouraged to use services

The Education Department now has a full time elementary education counselor, a high school counselor in the process of being hired, an academic specialist and a number of tutors working in the schools.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to use the many services provided by requesting a form giving staff permission to work with them in the Parker schools. For families struggling with homework issues, the Department has PUSD software in their computer lab to help. In other words, a parent who wants to help his/her child with math but doesn't know how can come to the lab with the student to learn together.

Arizona Western College has designated the computer lab as a teaching site for its distance learning. This means a trained professional will be available to assist students with online courses. For more information, call (928) 669-8831.



## Cowboys get kicks at Parker Indian Rodeo

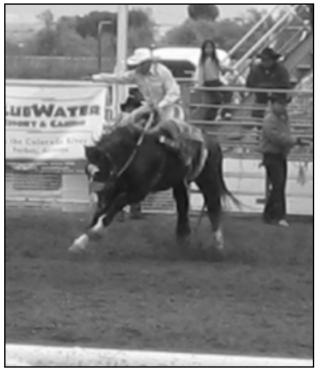
Contestants from throughout Arizona participated in the 36th Annual Parker Indian Rodeo in December, held at the Parker Rodeo Crounds

The cowboys and cowgirls were challenged in a variety of events, including team roping, barrel racing, bullriding and many more.

The winners received customized saddles from the Parker Indian Rodeo, as well as other great prizes.

(Above) Candice Riggs races for the finish line in the Barrel Racing competition.

(Right) Wes Brown rides "Bluegrass" in the Bronco Riding competition.



## CRIT Fire Department offers safety tips for using heaters in homes

The CRIT Fire Department would like to offer tips on the safe use of space heaters.

Portable electric heaters, while seemingly harmless, are responsible for 2,600 fires and 130 deaths annually. These heaters are not substitutes for central heating, nor are they designed for extended use. Here are tips on using them safely:

- ALL types must be kept at least 36 inches from anything that can burn, including furniture, bedding, clothing, pets and people.
- Space heaters must not be left operating when you aren't in a room or when you sleep.
- Children should be supervised at all times when space heaters are in use.

- Do not put drying clothing or combustibles over heaters.
- Check for fraying or splitting wires or overheating.
- Have problems repaired by a professional before operating the space heater.

Gas heaters can also lead to tragedy if not installed or used properly. Central furnaces, portable gas heaters and other gas heating equipment are associated with twin dangers of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.

If the pilot light of your heater should go out, remember these tips:

• Allow five minutes or more for the gas to go

away before trying again.

- Do not allow gas to accumulate.
- Light the match BEFORE you turn on the gas to the pilot. This avoids the risk of a flashback, which could occur if you allow gas to accumulate before you light the pilot.
- IF YOU SMELL GAS, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO LIGHT THE APPLIANCE. Turn off all controls and open a window or door. Leave the area, and then call a gas service person. DO NOT touch any electrical surface.

Regardless of the type of heater, never use a heater that is in disrepair. Make sure the heater's venting system is open as well.

#### BLYTHE,

From Page 1

Another is on the CRIT Reservation itself, near the Aranson lands.

In December, Council members Sylvia Homer, Herman "TJ" Laffoon and Vice Chairman Russell Welsh went to Blythe on a fact-finding mission. They met with members of the community and toured the prospective sites. They talked with a number of Blythe residents and business leaders about the possibility of working together on the new facility, and also met with the Blythe Rotary Club during their visit.

The visit was seen as a key step in gathering information and gauging interest in such a facility within Blythe. So far, Tribal Council members have been relatively pleased with what they've seen from leaders in the community.

"We are examining this proposed facility very closely, but we've found so far that the City of Blythe is committed to working with CRIT to

thoroughly review the merits of moving forward. We have been impressed by their leadership and residents," said Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr.

"We will not proceed with this project unless there are clear and compelling benefits for our members, as well as the State of California and our friends and partners in Blythe."

The process started in November when the Tribal Council and City of Blythe agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding, allowing for research and negotiations to take place on the construction of a facility in Blythe. More talks are planned in the coming weeks. Talks have also begun with Governor Schwarzenegger's office.



**Sylvia Homer** 



**Herman Laffoon** 



**Russell Welsh** 



Blythe Deputy City Manager Butch Hull talks with CRIT Attorney General Eric Shepard, Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. and BlueWater Resort & Casino General Manager Robert Kingsley at a November Blythe City Council meeting. The Blythe City Council voted to work with CRIT to explore building a new casino in the community. A joint meeting of the councils occurred on January 18.

## WAL-MART,

From Page 1

Blue Water Resort & Casino, tax reform, negotiations for a possible new casino in California and now a new Wal-Mart which will inject our coffers with millions of dollars over the course of time," CRIT Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. said.

"The progress in 2004 was good. But there is more to be done. Much more. By working together we will continue the progress in 2005 and in the years to come so that our families and children have the best possible future."

#### We Want To Hear From You!

The Manataba Messenger is a publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. If you have an idea, question, suggestion, letter to the editor or anything else you'd like to see in the Manataba Messenger, call or write us...

Route I, Box 23-B — Parker, AZ 85344 (928) 669-1233 or (928) 669-1223 critnews@aol.com

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